Screen area 120 may present a "view by" field. In this field, different views may be selected via menus, allowing the user to re organize the information in the tree.

Screen area 130 may present an icon tool by which a user may initiate a Search function. This feature provides the ability to search for recipes and file names in the database and save the results into a separate folder (personal or public).

Activating the right (or second) button on a mouse or other pointing device (or any other activation technique) may display a right mouse menu 140. The right mouse menu 140 may provide a contextual menu that gives access to standard functions such as help, cut, paste etc., and may also provide specific options based on the node selected in Recipe Navigator Tree 200. It is appreciated that some users (for example left-handed users) may invert the function of buttons on a pointing device. Embodiments of the present invention are well suited to such arrangements.

Screen area 150 may present a summary view. A summary view may be a specific window that displays the summary information of the object selected in the Recipe Navigator Tree 200. For instance, window 150 may display the name of a selected recipe, its formula name, a description of the recipe, the main product of the recipe, the quantity produced by the recipe, the formula used by the recipe, the routing used by the recipe, the type of the recipe and the status of the recipe, among other possible summary information.

Usually, a detail view 160 may be available for the object indicated in the summary view 150. The detail view 160 is described further below.

Figure 2 further illustrates a recipe navigator tree window 200, according to an embodiment of the present invention. Any node in the navigator tree window 200 may be selected by the user.

The recipe navigator tree 200 may support many views. Supported views may include: view by organization, view by project, view by Laboratory, view by product, view by formula, view by product, view by status, view by owner, and view by type.

The information shown in the recipe navigator tree 200 may be based on a security level defined for the user. Figure 2 shows the recipe navigator tree 200 organized by organization.

Still referring to Figure 2, tree node 205 may be the name of the organization owning or controlling several recipes. Selecting this node may display all recipes controlled by the organization. There may be additional levels of organization beneath the organization node 205, for example lines of business or departments, or in this case laboratories, including the depicted "laboratory 3" node 206.

Selecting "laboratory 3" node 206 may display all recipes controlled by this level of organization. This level of organization may control several recipes, which may be used in a variety of projects.

Recipe node 210 represents all of the information needed to produce a specific product. When selected, this node may be expanded to display greater detail of the components, which may make up the recipe represented by recipe

node 210. For example, recipe node 210 may comprise a formula 220 and routing 230.

In a similar fashion, formula 220, when selected, may expand to display additional detail, including for example the products which use recipe 210 in their formulation, a list of by-products produced by recipe 210 and a list of ingredients needed by recipe 210.

Routing 230 may include the processes and routing steps required to operate on the ingredients to conduct recipe 210. Routing 230 is shown in an unselected, unexpanded form. However, when selected, routing 230 may display details, including process steps and routing.

When the user selects a recipe node in the recipe navigator tree 200, the recipe summary view window 300 as shown in Figure 3 may be displayed in view mode. From this screen, the user has the ability to create a new recipe or edit the current recipe by pressing the New or Edit buttons (not shown).

Recipe summary view window 300 may display summary information related to the recipe selected in recipe navigator tree window 200. Summary information may include the recipe name, a description of the recipe, the type of the recipe, a quantity of ingredients used in the recipe, a formula used by the recipe, a routing used by the recipe and the status of the recipe, among other possible summary information.

Figure 3 also shows a routing flow summary window 310, which may be a graphical depiction of the routing flow indicated in the recipe summary view window